

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph 0020 as follows:

[0020] In some situations, it may be desirable to increase the diameter of the tube in the middle section of the tubing. While this does not reduce the circuit volume, it can allow for direct connection to other components without the need of adaptors. For example, it may be advantageous to insert a section 230 of the tubing between the track and rollers 232 of a peristaltic pump. The large diameter section of tubing inserted into the pump may even be of a diameter larger than is required for the connecting components on the ends of the tube. Utilizing larger diameter tubing in the pump section 230 allows the pump to operate at a lower speed, reduce heat build within the pump, and reduce the risk of blood damage. In another example, the tapered tubing may have a end with a small diameter for coupling to a small diameter connecting component. Tapered tubing with a large diameter end and an opposite small diameter end does not unnecessarily restrict blood flow and reduces the extracorporeal blood volume of the circuit.